



On the calendar

August

Geotechnical boring activities will be conducted along North King Street between Dillingham Boulevard and Kokea Street, intermittently during non-peak traffic hours. This investigation is being conducted to gather subsurface soil and rock information for the purpose of Iwilei-Kapālama Electrical Infrastructure Project. The data collected will be used to determine the appropriate design and ensure the safety and stability of the project.

For more information visit <https://dbedt.hawaii.gov/hcda/>.

September 3 at 9 a.m.

A Presentation Hearing on the proposed amendments to the Kalaheo Community Development District Plan and Rules. The Decision-Making Hearing will be held on November 5, 2025.

The next HCDA Board meetings will be held following the public hearing. Agendas will be posted on the website the Thursday before the meeting.

For more information about HCDA, the public hearings or board meetings visit <https://dbedt.hawaii.gov/hcda/>.

Hawaiian History Month

This year, the Hawai'i State Legislature passed and Gov. Josh Green, M.D. signed into law, Act 167, designating September as Hawaiian History Month. This long-awaited, much-anticipated recognition comes 132 years after the overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom, and 66 years after statehood.

Queen Lili'uokalani's birth, life, and legacy are remembered and celebrated in September, her birth month, by the Hawaiian community with an annual celebration on the grounds of 'Iolani Palace. The senate bill stated, "it would be an appropriate way to honor Queen Lili'uokalani and recognize the contributions of the Native Hawaiian community, while also providing community building, educational, and economic opportunities."

Enhanced by the Aloha Festivals' month-long variety of cultural events, it is a wonderful time of year to celebrate Hawaiian history.

Ko Kula Uka, Ko Kula Kai – Those of the Upland, Those of the Shore (Mauka to Makai) is the 2025 Aloha Festivals theme. This *ōlelo no'eau*, Hawaiian proverb, refers to the traditional practice of sharing resources within the *ahupua'a*, a land division that ran from the mountains to the sea. For example, fishermen shared seafood and salt with those inland, and farmers shared crops and fresh water with those near the shore. It was a once-thriving practice of communal living that built strong community bonds.

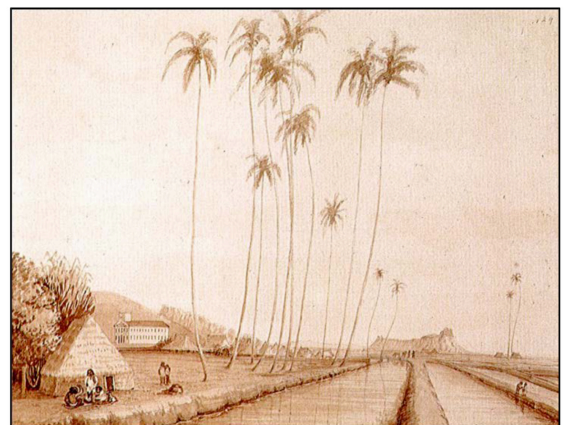
"This year, the Aloha Festivals takes us back to the heart of the home: the kitchen. We celebrate our local farmers, fishermen, cooks in and out of the kitchen, as well as the organizations who recognize and uplift those in need to have food to eat," states the Aloha Festivals website.

The festivities culminate on Saturday,



September 27 with the annual Aloha Festivals Floral Parade, which starts in Kaka'ako at Kewalo Basin from 9 a.m. on Ala Moana Boulevard and goes to Kapi'olani Park.

Grandstands will be posted along the route where attendees can hear commentary and narration. The official broadcast and livestream will be presented by KHON. For more information visit <https://www.alohafestivals.com/>.



"Native Church, [Kawaiaha'o Church] Oahu, from the Old Salt Pans," 1845 drawn by John B. Dale.

A Bit of History

Kaka'ako is rich with history composed of fishing villages, aquaculture and royalty. Many streams and underground springs of the *ahupua'a*, land area from the mountain to the sea, fed *lo'i*, irrigated terraces for *kalo*, taro, fishponds and wetland life such as the native *ae'o*, Hawaiian stilt bird.

There was once an abundance of *pa'akai*, salt ponds, located mauka of Beach Road, now called Ala Moana Boulevard, in the current Kaka'ako area. The *pa'akai* ponds produced large amounts of the very valuable commodity, rich in minerals.

In 1865, Curtis Perry Ward, a well-known businessman, married Victoria Robinson, a descendent from an *ali'i*, royal family from Ka'u.

In the 1870s, the Ward family acquired a significant portion of land in the area (currently the Ward Village), formerly called Ko'ula and built their home in 1880, known as the 'Old Plantation.' The grand estate was demolished in 1958 to construct the Neal S. Blaisdell Center.

The *kai*, ocean, was both a place for fishing and recreation, with the shore right beyond Beach Road, until the oceanfront reef (Kaka'ako Makai) was filled with garbage, ash, and sediment from dredging the Ala Wai Canal and Kewalo Basin. This was initially done for sanitation purposes following the Bubonic plague outbreak in Chinatown, Honolulu in December 1899.

Controlled fires were started in Chinatown for sanitization purposes, but the strong winds ignited the fires out of control, leaving about 4,000 people homeless and later living in quarantine camps with armed guards in the Kaka'ako and Ala Moana area.

The Bubonic plague began in China, in 1855, starting the third global plague pandemic.

The once-secluded Hawaiian islands were fortunately far too remote to be touched by the first two plague pandemics.



Kolowalu Small Dog Park Temporarily Closed for Maintenance

As of August 2025, the small dog park is closed due to unauthorized dumping of mulch. Although seemingly well intended, filling in the park with regular mulch is prohibited at this park.

Side-by-side regular mulch and dog safe mulch may look the same, but using the wrong type of mulch can pose serious risks to dogs and the environment.

Treated wood chips may contain chemicals that are toxic to dogs if ingested, and even untreated mulch may be toxic or may harbor pests such as little fire ants or coconut rhinoceros beetles. For these reasons, only non-toxic dog-friendly mulch specifically sourced and installed by HCDA's contractors is permitted at Kolowalu Dog Park.

Please note, any mulch could cause a choking hazard. So, please don't let your dog eat mulch.

During the small dog park closure, both large and small dogs may use the large dog park.

However, owners of small dogs are advised to keep them on leash, as small dogs may slip through the wider-spaced aluminum fencing at the large dog park. Owners who choose to unleash their small dogs do so at their own risk.

During the closure, work will entail further rehabilitation of the lawn, additional repairs to the mulched area and installation of paver stones to prevent muddy conditions at the entrance.

After several incidents of vandalism to the irrigation system that affected both the large and small dog sections of the park, the HCDA closed the large dog park in May 2025. The large dog park has since reopened.

In the future, periodic closures of both park sections are expected for maintenance and repairs.

Mahalo for your patience and understanding. 